



**ORIGINAL**

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

SEP 15 1998

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**RECEIVED**

SEP 18 1998

The Honorable Peter T. King  
Member, U. S. House of Representatives  
1003 Park Boulevard  
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. John A. Wallace, regarding a "telephone tax" or fee that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

The 1996 Act requires all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

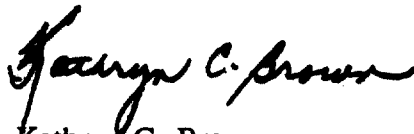
No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
List A B C D E \_\_\_\_\_

The Honorable Peter T. King

Page 2

Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Kathryn C. Brown  
Chief

Common Carrier Bureau

PETER T. KING

Member of Congress  
Third District, New York

403 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3203  
(202) 225-7896

1003 PARK BOULEVARD  
MASSAPEQUA PARK, NY 11762  
(516) 541-4225

peter.king@mail.house.gov

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3203

June 29, 1998

COMMITTEE ON BANKING  
AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS

VICE CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE  
PACIFIC

CONGRESSIONAL HUMAN  
RIGHTS CAUCUS

MAJORITY WHIP  
NEW YORK STATE DELEGATION

*CLB*  
*96-456*  
*5/34*

Congressional Liaison Office  
Federal Communication Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Director:

The attached communication is sent for your consideration. Please investigate the statements contained therein and respond to me with the necessary information for reply, returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer.

Send all correspondence to my Massapequa Park District Office at 1003 Park Blvd., Massapequa Park, New York 11762.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING  
Member of Congress

PTK/kh

JUN 25 1998

2000  
June 25, 1998

Congressman Peter King  
ATTN: Kevin Heenan

Subject: Long Distance Telephone Charge  
Apologizing for my error

Dear Sir,

I am writing you my most  
sincerely and with the

disturbance of Mr. Kevin Heenan &  
asking your office to make

(or confirm) the fact that a bill  
exists that requires my long distance

company, VARIOUS TELECOM, to charge  
my phone account \$2.26 for the

WIV SVC FUND. (Jan. 19 on the bill)  
How my spouse's service. I have

understandable that - what appears to  
be a donation can be applied to my

long distance phone bill without my  
prior approval. If the law does

prevent this charge, I am surprised  
that Congress would have passed

such a law.

1. Please confirm that such a law is in  
effect. The good location for a law

that prevents money to be done by  
to a charity not in the name of (OVER)

the donor.?

I will truly appreciate your  
response to these questions.

Thank you, very much

Sincerely,

John A. Wallace



Account Number 516 249-5277 113 275  
 Bill Period Jun 13 - Jul 12, 1998  
 BAC Page 1 of 4

U13 To enroll in the Bell Atlantic  
 U13 Direct Payment Option please read  
 and sign the agreement on the  
 reverse side of the payment form  
 below.

1 A Wallace  
 26 Linwood Ave  
 Farmingdale NY 11735-2217

**Order or Bill Information**  
 190-1350

**Payment Information**  
 190-1100

**TTY/TDD** see page 3

**Other Bill Questions?**  
 Call the number shown  
 in the detail page for  
 that company.

**ACCOUNT SUMMARY**

	amount	total
Previous Balance	\$84.16	
Payment Received 6/9 - Thank You	82.22 cr	
Overdue Balance as of 6/17 please pay now (disregard if paid)		\$1.94
<b>New Charges</b>		
Bell Atlantic Basic Local Services page 2	\$28.21	
Bell Atlantic Calls page 2	.95	
All Other Charges page 3	46.97	
<b>Total New Charges Due by July 8, 1998</b>		<b>\$76.13</b>



Account Number 516 249-5277 113 275  
 Bill Period Jun 13 - Jul 12, 1998  
 BAC Page 3 of 4

CITY  
 11735

**New Charges**  
 continued

**All Other Charges**

1 AT&T	see detail pages	\$ .30
2 VarTec Telecom	see detail pages	46.67
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$46.97</b>

**EMIZED CALLS**

**ll Atlantic  
 cal Calls**

to your phone  
 for rates and  
 unit information.

Your flat rate service includes unlimited calling to specific exchanges in your local calling area. Calls shown below are calls made to exchanges outside of your flat rate area.

no.	call area	initial charge per call	add'l minute charge	number of calls	additional minutes	discount	amount
3	Nassau	10.6¢	2.2¢	3	3	-	
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$ .38</b>

**l Atlantic  
 gional Calls**

average price per  
 call 6.8¢.

no.	place called	initial charge per call	add'l minute charge	number of calls	additional minutes	discount	amount
4	W.Suffolk	13.7¢	4.5¢	3		-	
5				4	4	65%	\$ .67
6	E.Suffolk	13.7¢	6.4¢	1		-	.14
<b>Total</b>							<b>\$ .81</b>



K1  
 month



Account Number 516 249-5277 113 275  
Bill Period Jun 13 - Jul 12, 1998  
VarTec Page 1 of 3

C032  
11735

This portion of your bill is provided as a service to VarTec Telecom. There is no connection between Bell Atlantic and VarTec Telecom. You may choose another company for your long distance telephone calls while still receiving your local telephone service from Bell Atlantic.

Helpful Numbers Billing inquiries call VarTec Telecom 1-800-583-6767

### Customer News

The Federal Communications Commission has required VarTec Telecom, Inc. and other telecommunications companies to expand their access code from 5 to 7 digits. That means the Dimeline number 10811 you have been using to save on all long distance calls now have a "10" preceding it so that it will become 1010-311 (easily remembered as "Dime-Dime-311"). Please start using this new code today.

### Summary

#### VarTec Telecom

1 Toll Calls	\$42.61
2 Federal Tax	1.28
3 State Tax	2.78
Total	\$46.67
	11735

### Toll Calls *continued*

#### Directly Dialed

no.	date	time	place called	number called	rate period	min:sec	amount
1	5/28	12:27 pm	Centraisl NY	516 582 4809	day	10:00	\$ .70
2	5/28	4:17 pm	Centraisl NY	516 582 4809	day	4:00	.20
3	5/29	7:33 am	Northbeach MD	301 855 5199	night	4:00	.40
4	5/29	3:46 pm	Gardencity NY	516 571 7300	day	16:00	1.12
5	5/29	4:29 pm	Vly Stream NY	516 825 5732	day	22:00	1.54
6	5/30	10:03 am	Flemington NJ	908 284 9858	night	8:00	.40
7	5/30	10:25 am	Northbeach MD	301 855 5199	night	3:00	.30
8	5/30	10:47 am	Annapolis MD	410 267 1966	night	3:00	.15
9	5/30	11:06 am	Centraisl NY	516 582 6540	night	15:00	1.05
10	5/30	12:05 pm	Vly Stream NY	516 825 5732	night	3:00	.21
11	5/30	12:32 pm	Vly Stream NY	516 825 5732	night	3:00	.15
12	5/30	3:11 pm	Annapolis MD	410 267 1966	night	3:00	.30
13	5/30	3:16 pm	Northbeach MD	301 855 5199	night	6:00	.30
14	5/30	3:34 pm	Centraisl NY	516 234 2913	night	3:00	.21
15	5/30	3:36 pm	Rosetonkoma NY	516 585 5223	night	3:00	.15
16	5/30	3:39 pm	Yaphank NY	516 924 7959	night	17:00	1.19
17	5/30	3:58 pm	Centraisl NY	516 582 6540	night	15:00	1.05
18	5/31		Dimeline				5.00
19	5/31		Univ Svc Fnd				2.26
20	5/31	7:53 am	Annapolis MD	410 267 1966	night	3:00	.30
21	5/31	9:33 am	Northbeach MD	410 257 6720	night	3:00	.15
Total							\$42.51

VarTec portion continues on reverse side of page